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THE HONGKONG DISPENSARY

Established A.D. 1841.

Hongkong, 14th May, 1898. [24]

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The Daily Press.

HONGKONG, JUNE 13th, 1898.

At last the extension of the colony's boundaries has been definitely announced, and it is with much satisfaction we are able to state that the fears that have latterly been entertained as to the concession being confined to the occupation of such points as might be required for military purposes prove to have been unfounded. The lease which has been granted carries with it, as far as we have been able to ascertain, full jurisdiction. Some difficulty and delay have been caused in the negotiations by the Customs question, but we understand the arrangement finally come to is that the examining stations are to be transferred to the northern points of Mirs Bay and Deep Bay. As a matter of convenience for the mercantile community no doubt an office or agency of the Customs will still be maintained in Hongkong, for it would involve a great loss of time if a trader every time he wanted to procure a pass or pay money to the Customs had to go personally or send a representative to Mirs Bay or Deep Bay.

The advantages of the new acquisition are immense. It will not only allow of the adequate defence of the colony, but will prove highly advantageous in rendering the colony more self-supporting in the matter of its food supplies and affording room for industrial development, while indirectly it will be of value as another wedge of civilisation driven into the important province of Kwangtung, upon the opening up and development of which it will exercise an important influence. Amongst the minor advantages may be mentioned the circumstance that it will now be feasible to locate the Chinese burial grounds on one of the adjacent islands and do away with the insanitary cemetery on Mount Davis, which has proved an insuperable obstacle to the development of Poigulam and the Western district.

Many important questions will arise in connection with the administration of the newly acquired territory, which includes in addition to the city of Kowloon a number of more or less populous villages. It may not be considered expedient to at once subject these to all the laws that have gradually during the last fifty years been introduced for the government of the island of Hongkong, but the enforcement of a reasonable measure of sanitisation will be imperative, educational facilities will have to be provided, and the whole district will have to be adequately policed. In the matter of public works the first important step will be to open up the district by roads, not necessarily such extensive roads as those to which we are accustomed on the island of Hongkong, but at least wide paths that will afford access to all parts. A very large increase will be required in

larily in the Public Works and Police departments, to provide for all these demands, and to meet the financial strain another loan may be found necessary. With the extension of the area of the colony, the application of the principle of local self-government will become more than evitable.

Until we are in possession of the full particulars of the compensation it is impossible adequately to discuss the questions above briefly alluded to, but they are after all mere matters of detail. The important point is that the territory in question has become British, and in chronicling that fact would be a grave omission not to render acknowledgment of the service rendered by the colony by those who have been mainly responsible for bringing about the beneficial change. First and foremost stands the Hon. C. P. CHATER, who conceived the idea and set the ball rolling by his letter to Governor Sir Wm. Robinson in 1891. The Union Association, Chinese National League, especially the Chinese Patriotic League, all contributed substantially to the success of those institutions in the colony are due to the Naval and Military Officers who have done their share in representing the importance of the acquisition from the point of view of Imperial defence. Sir Wm. Robinson has also pressed the matter, and in Sir G. M. MACDONALD we have a Minister of Peaking who knows well the importance and further Briton's interests in China. It is now reasonably clear that the colony itself is adequately developed and turned to the best possible use.

The holding of the Union Jack at Wan-hai-sui on the 24th May presented in some important particular a rather striking contrast to a similar ceremony on the 22nd April when the Tricolour was officially hoisted at Kwangtung. The French ensign was on that occasion conveyed by M. KARL, the French Consul at Hongkong, when a party of sailors and marines, together with the ship's boats, were landed. A flag-staff was erected on an ancient tree, and while the band played and the sailors cheered the flag of the Republic was unfurled to the breeze. A considerable crowd of natives assembled to witness the ceremony out of sheer curiosity, but no native official either took part in it or gave it the sanction of their presence. The villagers simply gaped at the doings of the foreigners and probably had but the haziest notion of what was really taking place. It was very different at Weihai-wei. The Chinese and British warships on the 23rd May having first jointly saluted the Japanese transports as they steamed out of port, the band of the *Morioria* playing the Japanese National Anthem, the Chinese flag was then hoisted and saluted. The next day, however, after formal notice had been given to all the inhabitants, a general meeting of the inhabitants was convened to allay the apprehensions of the Chinese, and a meeting of changing occupation was gone through with all due formalities. Two companies of sailors in charge of Commandant NAPIER, R.N., with the band, and one company of Chinese sailors from the port, were marched to the West Fort, where two temporary flagstaffs had been erected, on one of which the Dragon flag already hoisted. The sailors were here drawn up in square facing the flagstaffs and the band being placed between the latter and there received the Commissioners namely Mr. CANUL HOPKINS, Captain K. K. HALL of the *Narcissus*, H. T. YEN, and Captain L. G. of the *Dromedary*, Capt. K. K. HALL, then addressed the assembly.

At the Magistracy on Saturday Wong Chu, of Canton, a sailor from Fing, a trader, was captured with a gun and wounding a gardener on the 5th inst. They were at Apieku when they quarrelled, and the cootie beat the gardener with a chopstick. The injured man was removed to the police station and subsequently to the Government Hospital. Defendant was then arrested and sentenced to 14 days hard labour.

To-day weather permitting, there will be a polo match at 3.15 p.m. between representative Scotch and Irish teams. At present an arranged the Scotch team will consist of Hon. T. H. Whitehead, Capt. Laurie, Lieut. Mark Kerr, and Capt. Tatton and the Irish team of the Hon. F. H. May, Mr. J. Hastings, Capt. Des Voeux, and Mr. O'Brien.

At the Magistracy on Saturday a man named John Hinchet was charged at the instance of C. H. Preston, chief officer of the Portmact, with stealing a box of incense valued at £5. Defendant admitted the offence, but said he had taken the goods back again. Sentenced to 14 days hard labour.

At the Magistracy on Saturday a cootie was charged with shooting and wounding a gardener on the 5th inst. They were at Apieku when they quarrelled, and the cootie beat the gardener with a chopstick. The injured man was removed to the police station and subsequently to the Government Hospital. Defendant was then arrested and sentenced to 14 days hard labour.

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The following returns of the average amount of Bank notes in circulation and of specie in reserve in Hongkong during the month ended 31st May, 1898, is certified by the managers of the respective Banks, are published:

Average  
Banked  
Amount.

Specie in  
Reserve.

Total.

Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China, \$2,836,976 \$1,300,000

Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, 26,436,906 \$3,000,000

National Bank of China, Limited, \$ 450,000 \$ 150,000

Total, \$9,726,782 \$4,450,000

The following Echo publishes a paragraph contradicting certain rumours, which it characterises as ridiculous, which have recently been circulated in Hongkong. According to the Echo, the reported failure of the Chinese to pay the salaries of the French engineers and the threatened bombardment of the Arsenal by French men-of-war. Not only, says our contemporary, was there never a single day's delay in the payment of the salaries of the French engineers, but all the gods and engines bought in Europe by Mr. Le Frey, the French agent for the naval armament of the Chinese, when their word is pledged. As a proof of the cordial good will existing between the Chinese and French authorities of the Arsenal, we may mention that on Friday last a farewell dinner party was given by M. Le Frey to H.E. Mr. Le Frey, to whom the French Ambassador was present and who responded to both sides of the party separated on the same terms. "Things will surely go on in the same way with the new Tariff General, not for fear of bombardment, but simply because he is in the same disposition as his predecessor, and also because there is a contract signed by His Majesty's Jubilee."

Great difficulty has of late been experienced by residents in securing chair covers, notwithstanding the fact that there is a large number of chairs in the city, and which cause considerable inconvenience, there are several reasons. The demand upon the labour supply of the colony in connection with industrial enterprises is increasing at a more rapid rate than the influx of population, and this renders it increasingly difficult to secure cooties either for domestic or commercial purposes. In addition to the number of houses issued for public claim has recently been increased from 450 to 494, and as cooties prefer to work with public claim, which give them a somewhat better income with greater freedom to work when they like and rest when they like, this has drawn a number of men from private employment. In addition to these causes, plague has been visiting the city for a number of years, and has driven a number of cooties and drivers away from the colony. The gallis have also been more massive of late and have instructed their members to demand higher wages, alleging as their reason the increased cost of living. In course of time no doubt the labour supply will more nearly approximate to the demand than is at present the case, but there is no immediate prospect of changes being made in this direction.

The Queen desires me to ask you to be good enough to convey the expression of her thanks to all those who were associated in this tribute of loyalty and affection. Yours very truly, ARTHUR BIGGE.

Lieut.-Col. Sir A. Bigge.

LIEUT.-COL. SIR ARTHUR BIGGE TO SIR WILLIAM ROBINSON.

Windsor Castle, May 18th, 1898.

Dear Sir,—I have received and read before your Excellency my letter of the 14th instant, and I am sorry to say that the Queen's lively interest in the Diamond Jubilee has been manifested by the Royal Household in the same manner through the occasion of Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee.

The Queen desired me to ask you to be good enough to convey the expression of her thanks to all those who were associated in this tribute of loyalty and affection. Yours very truly, ARTHUR BIGGE.

Sir William Robinson, G.C.M.G.

## THE CHINESE IN HONGKONG, NO. 1.

OF CHINESE IN HONGKONG.

BY A. S. WATSON & CO.

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